

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 VO-05 HA-05 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
SS-15 SY-05 PA-01 ICA-11 /065 W
-----114229 210451Z /13

R 201058Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0689
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 5086

ROME FOR EMBASSY AND INS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CVIS SHUM PINT RO

SUBJECT: UPDATE ON ROMANIAN PASSPORT DISSIDENTS

REF: (A) BUCHAREST 4927 (NOTAL), (B) BUCHAREST 4872,
(C) BUCHAREST 4854 (NOTAL), (D) SIMONS-SILINS' LETTER OF
APRIL 6

1. LATEST CONTACTS WITH HUNGER STRIKE GROUP OF JULY 10 LED BY
CONSTANTIN ADAM (SEE REFS A AND C) REVEAL THAT LAST WEEKEND
AT LEAST FIVE GROUP MEMBERS WERE ROUNDED UP BY THE ROMANIAN
AUTHORITIES AND SUBJECTED TO INTERROGATION FOR 5-6 HOUR
PERIODS ON PRETEXT THAT US CONSUL HAD FILED FORMAL COMPLAINT
WITH ROMANIAN GOVERNMENT ABOUT THE GROUP'S ACTIVITIES ON
EMBASSY GROUNDS. ALL MEMBERS WERE RELEASED WITH WARNINGS NOT
TO VISIT THE EMBASSY OR PASSPORT OFFICE AGAIN. NOTWITHSTANDING
THIS, THE GROUP SENT TWO DELEGATIONS TO EMBASSY JULY 17,
BOTH OF WHICH WERE ABLE TO ENTER UNMOLESTED, AND REPORT
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THE ABOVE EVENTS. (CONOFFS ASSURED THEM NO COMPLAINT
MADE TO ROMANIAN AUTHORITIES.)

2. EMBASSY WAS VISITED JULY 17 BY ANOTHER PASSPORT
DISSIDENT GROUP OF 8 PERSONS, 6 MEN AND 2 WOMEN, FROM
TIMISOARA. THIS GROUP WAS PREVIOUSLY KNOWN TO THE
EMBASSY, AND HAD BEEN IN PERSONAL AND PHONE CONTACT WITH

CONOFFS FOR SEVERAL WEEKS, FOLLOWING A DEMONSTRATION THEY STAGED IN BUCHAREST LAST APRIL. THEY REQUESTED PERMISSION TO STAGE HUNGER STRIKE ON EMBASSY GROUNDS, WHICH CONOFF REFUSED. GROUP AGREED TO DEPART EMBASSY WHEN CONOFF OFFERED TO ACCEPT A LETTER STATING GROUP'S GRIEVANCES INSTEAD. THIS GROUP CLAIMS TO HAVE SUFFERED HARASSMENT AT THEIR WORKPLACES, HAVING BEEN TRANSFERRED TO DIFFERENT SHIFTS TO PRECLUDE THEIR MEETING TOGETHER, AND HAVING BEEN DENOUNCED AT UNION MEETINGS AS BANDITS AND TRAITORS. ONE OF THIS GROUP, MATEI EBINGER, APPEARS TO HAVE A CLAIM TO US CITIZENSHIP AS BOTH HIS PARENTS WERE BORN IN THE US. EMBASSY CURRENTLY INVESTIGATING CLAIM.

3. REGARDING REF B AND D, MMES ALEXANDRESCU AND GANEA (WIVES OF TWO INTELLECTUAL PASSPORT DISSIDENTS WHO DEMONSTRATED JULY 3 -- ALONG WITH MRS. ALEXANDRESCU) VISITED THE EMBASSY AGAIN JULY 18 TO REPORT THAT LATTER HAD SEEN HUSBAND AND DELIVERED PACKAGE. MEN ARE TOGETHER (ON SAME BED) IN CELL BUILT FOR 40 AND HOLDING 70, MOSTLY COMMON CRIMINALS WHO STEAL "EVERYTHING," HAVE BEEN SHAVED AND SUBJECTED TO HOMOSEXUAL APPROACHES. ALEXANDRESCU HAS NOW BEEN KICKED OUT OF HIS JOB, AND MRS. GANEA EXPECTS SIMILAR TREATMENT FOR HER HUSBAND SOON. DESPITE BRIEF PRESENCE OF FRENCH EMBOFF AT JULY 3 DEMONSTRATION, FRENCH EMBASSY HAS SHOWN NO RECENT CONFIDENTIAL

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INTEREST, ALTHOUGH MRS. ALEXANDRESCU IS DUAL NATIONAL AND COUPLE IS ON FRENCH HUMANITARIAN CASES LIST PRESUMABLY HANDED TO FONMIN ANDREI DURING JUNE VISIT TO PARIS. BOTH WOMEN NOW EXPECT HUSBANDS TO SERVE FULL TERM (UNTIL AUGUST 1) AND HAVE HEARD NO MORE INTIMATIONS OF LENIENCY FROM AUTHORITIES. MRS. GANEA DOES EXPECT TO VISIT HER HUSBAND JULY 20 AND WILL REPORT FURTHER. AGGREY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, PASSPORTS, DISSIDENT FACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BUCHAR05086
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780299-0675
Format: TEL
From: BUCHAREST
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780740/aaaabhdv.tel
Line Count: 102
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: cd693570-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 BUCHAREST 4927, 78 BUCHAREST 4872, 78 BUCHAREST 4854
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1947608
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UPDATE ON ROMANIAN PASSPORT DISSIDENTS
TAGS: CVIS, SHUM, PINT, RO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/cd693570-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014